

Message Text

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EXDIS TODEP 048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 5 FOR THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. PORTUGAL

A. THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT RESIGNS

REUTER REPORTS THAT THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS
REMAINED IN OFFICE SINCE GONCALVES' REPLACEMENT AS PRIME
MINISTER, RESIGNED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. PRIME MINISTER
DESIGNATE AZEVEDO HAS NOT YET FORMED A NEW GOVERNMENT.

BUREAU COMMENT: THE MEANING OF THE RESIGNATION WILL BE
UNCLEAR UNTIL MILITARY AND POLITICAL MODERATES REACT
TO THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS AND UNTIL
AZEVEDO FORMS A GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY IMMEDIATE PLUS
IS THAT IT MAKES GONCALVES' OUSTER AS PRIME MINISTER
OFFICIAL.

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(SEE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY ITEM NUMBER 1)

B. ANOTHER SPINOLA PUTSCH?

EMBASSY PARIS HAS LEARNED FROM A PORTUGUESE CONTACT IN TOUCH WITH BOTH THE SPINOLISTAS AND THE ANTUNES GROUP THAT GENERAL SPINOLA IS MEETING IN PARIS WITH HIS COMMANDO OPERATIONS IN PORTUGAL. THE SOURCE SAID:

--THE BASIC IDEA IS TO MAKE A SUDDEN, PSYCHOLOGICALLY EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION TO TIP THE BALANCE AWAY FROM THE LEFT.

--OPTION A IS A COMMANDO THRUST FROM SPAIN SETTING UP A BASE IN NORTHEAST PORTUGAL.

--OPTION B IS SEIZING POWER IN THE AZORES, ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE INFORMANT FEELS THAT NO ACTION FROM SPANISH SOIL IS IMMINENT BECAUSE SPINOLA'S FORCE THERE IS TOO WEAK AND THE GOS FEARS THE IMPLICATIONS OF PERMITTING IT TO MOVE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ANTUNES GROUP HAS INFORMATION THAT THE PCP IS SEEKING A PRETEXT TO LAUNCH ITS OWN PUTSCH.

2. CYPRUS

A. DENKTASH TALKS TO THE BRITISH--UDI?

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY INFORMED AMBASSADOR MACOMBER THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH HAD TOLD HIM:
- -

--HE HAS NO LATITUDE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINE OF DIVISION IN CYPRUS; ONLY ANKARA CAN DECIDE AND IT WILL NOT ACT.

--IF THE TURKS CONTINUE TO FORCE HIM INTO A CORNER, HE WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER DECLARING INDEPENDENCE.

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--HE WILL ASK SYG WALDHEIM NOT TO PRESS HIM AT THE NEW YORK TALKS TO NEGOTIATE A DIVISION.

--HE WAS MISLED INTO AGREEING TO THE NEW YORK DATES, REALIZING TOO LATE THAT THEY COINCIDED WITH US CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATIONS ON THE EMBARGO.

--IF THE GREEKS RAISE THE CYPRUS QUESTION AT THE UNGA HE WILL ALSO CLAIM THE RIGHT TO SPEAK.

BRITISH COMMENT: THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR FEELS THAT

DENKTASH, CONVINCED THAT IN THE END THE GOT WOULD BE FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH HIM, SEES UDI AS A FIRM DECISION THAT IS PREFERABLE TO THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTIES. IF ALL GOES BADLY FOR HIM IN NEW YORK, HE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO MOVE QUICKLY TOWARD IT.

B. GREECE: BITSIOS ON CYPRUS

MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KUBISCH, GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS SAID THAT NEITHER HE NOR CLERIDES THOUGHT THAT MUCH WOULD COME OUT OF THE LATTER'S MEETINGS WITH DENKTASH IN NEW YORK THIS WEEK. REGARDING THE US ARMS EMBARGO, BITSIOS SAID HIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE IT A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE TURKS AND:

--URGED THAT THE US TIE ANY LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO TO AN UNDERSTANDING ON POSITIVE TURKISH MOVES ON CYPRUS; BUT

--STRESSED THAT THE GOG WAS DETERMINED NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE MATTER SO LONG AS NO ONE (READ THE USG) MIS-REPRESENTED ITS POSITION;

--BEYOND NOTING THAT THE GOG HATES ALWAYS BEING LINKED WITH THE TURKS, REFUSED TO EXPRESS ANY POSITION ON INCORPORATING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE IN US LEGISLATION LIFTING THE EMBARGO.

BITSIOS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PUBLIC INDICATIONS THAT THE CARMANLIS GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THE BIZONALITY CONCEPT IN CYPRUS. HE STRESSED THAT THE GOG FAVORED

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A BIZONAL SOLUTION ONLY AS PART OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT INCLUDING AGREEMENT ON THE SIZE OF THE ZONES.

3. MIDDLE EAST

A. EGYPT UNDER ATTACK

EMBASSY CAIRO AGREES WITH THE GOE ASSESSMENT THAT MOST EGYPTIANS CAN BE COUNTED ON TO WELCOME THE NEW PERIOD OF "GUARANTEED" STABILITY BROUGHT ON BY THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS EXPRESS CONCERN, HOWEVER, OVER THE DEARTH OF ARAB SUPPORT. THEY REPORT:

--THE VIRULENCE OF THE SYRIAN ATTACK RANKLES THE GOE MOST--THERE IS FEAR THAT THE ANTI-SADAT LINE MAY SETTLE INTO A CONCENTRATED CAMPAIGN ALLEGING AN EGYPTIAN-SAUDI AXIS MANIPULATED FROM WASHINGTON.

--ONLY THE SAUDIS ARE STANDING 100 PERCENT WITH EGYPT.

--THE OFFICIAL JORDANIAN DENIAL THAT AMMAN RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH SATISFACTION STARTLED THE GOE.

--QADHAFI, SURPRISINGLY, HAS SO FAR SAID NOTHING.

THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT SADAT'S GOOD-NEIGHBOR POLICIES VIS A VIS ARAB STATES AND HIS LEASHING OF EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE AND COVERT OPERATIONS MAY HAVE CREATED A SITUATION WHEREIN NO ONE FEARS EGYPT'S REACTION ANY LONGER.

(SEE ITEM 3 OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY)

B. SYRIA AUTHORIZES FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS FROM GOLAN

EMBASSY DAMASCUS CITES A REPORT FROM NEWSWEEK EDITOR ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE THAT THE SYRIANS MAY HAVE AUTHORIZED THE FEDAYEEN TO CONDUCT FORAYS INTO ISRAEL FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

--DE BORCHGRAVE'S SOURCE, PLO LEADER ABU ASAD, TOLD HIM
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THE SARG'S DECISION WAS AN EXPRESSION OF UNHAPPINESS OVER THE INTERIM SINAI ACCORD.

EMBASSY COMMENT: CAUTION IS SUGGESTED SINCE NEITHER THE EMBASSY NOR DE BORCHGRAVE CAN VOUCH FOR THE ACCURACY OF ABU ASAD'S INFORMATION. IF TRUE, THE DECISION WOULD BE A MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM THE SARG'S LONGSTANDING BAN ON FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS FROM ITS TERRITORY.

(SEE ITEM 5 OF THE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY)

4. VICTORIA FALLS TALKS--TWO STEPS FORWARD, HOW MANY BACK?

FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S SPECIAL ADVISOR ON AFRICA TOLD EMBASSY LONDON THAT THE ANC'S INABILITY TO BRING DETAILED PROPOSALS TO VICTORIA FALLS MADE THEIR EFFORTS A FARCE. HE INDICATED:

--BISHOP MUZOREWA BOMBED IN HIS INITIAL ROLE AS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR AND NOW SEEMS CONTENT TO REMAIN IN EUROPE WHILE THE ANC PLANS A MORE DETAILED STRATEGY.

--IAN SMITH CONTINUES HIS DESPERATE GAMBLE THAT THE WHITES IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT PERMIT THEIR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO FORCE A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

--BUT VORSTER AND DUANDA DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATED THEIR
COMMITMENT TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT CALLAGHAN WILL SEEK TO INVOLVE THE
US NOW, BUT AT SOME LATER DATE HE MAY URGE THE US TO
REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT AND TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION
ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION.

5. SUDAN COUP FOLLOWUP

EMBASSY KHARTOUM REPORTS THAT SUDANESE MEDIA COVERAGE
OF THE COUP ATTEMPT HAS STRESSED THAT THE RIGHTIST
NATIONAL FRONT (WHICH IS GENERALLY TAKEN TO INCLUDE

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THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD) WAS BEHIND THE MOVE. COMMENTA-
TORS' REMARKS INDICATE THAT THE GOS KNEW IN ADVANCE OF
THE PLOT BUT TOOK NO ACTION BECAUSE IT LACKED SUFFICIENT
EVIDENCE. WOULD-BE COUP LEADER OSMAN, EARLIER REPORTED
TO HAVE BEEN KILLED, IS APPARENTLY STILL ALIVE.
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